

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 1, 2005. Claims 3-7, 10 and 13 are presented for examination, and have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 3, 10 and 13 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested..

Initially, Applicants note the objection to the wording of Claim 6; the rewording of that claim is believed to obviate that objection, the withdrawal of which is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 3-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,716,456 (Hosaka), and Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from that patent in view of U.S. patent 5,633,953 (Kouzaki).

As is described in the application, the present invention is intended to facilitate the accurate estimation of spectral distribution data. Independent Claim 3 is directed to an image processing apparatus that comprises first and second acquisition sections, the first being arranged to acquire color data of an object, and the second, to acquire spectral distribution data, which is necessary to estimate spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region, from a plurality of spectral distribution data in accordance with the acquired color data. Also provided is an estimator, arranged to estimate the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region on the basis of the spectral distribution data acquired by the second acquisition section.

Among other notable features of the apparatus of Claim 3, is that when spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region is estimated, the estimation is made

using spectral distribution data acquired from a plurality of spectral distribution data in accordance with color data acquired from an object. In other words, the plurality of spectral distribution data is unnecessary for the estimation of the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region in the apparatus of Claim 3. As a result, the image sensing time of a multi-spectrum camera, the data amount, and the calculation time required for estimating a spectral distribution are reduced as much as possible.

Hosaka relates to a color image sensor which outputs a signal corresponding to a light of a wavelength 700nm and under by constructing total characteristics of a light source, a photoelectric device, and color filters. The color image sensor of *Hosaka* accurately reads a color image because the spectrum distribution characteristics of the sensor do not cover wavelengths above 700nm. Applicants submit, however, that nothing has been found or pointed out in *Hosaka* that would teach that spectral distribution data should be acquired from a plurality of spectral distribution data in accordance with color data acquired from an object, or that spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region should be estimated based on the acquired spectral distribution data, as is recited in Claim 3. Applicants submit that the *Hosaka* apparatus would not reduce image sensing time of a multi-spectrum camera, the data amount, and calculation time for estimating the spectral distribution, as can be achieved with an apparatus according to Claim 3. Accordingly, that claim is believed to be clearly allowable over that patent.

Even if *Kouzaki* is deemed to show all that it is cited for, that would not provide what is missing from *Hosaka* as a reference against Claim 3, and that claim is therefore believed to be allowable over both patents, taken separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 10 and 13 are method and computer memory medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 3, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 3.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

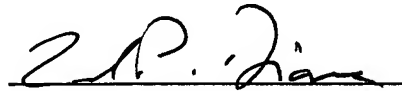
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

A Submission of Translation is being filed herewith, to provide a translation of the document cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of July 2, 2002.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L.P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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